

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SCCT-02 ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5731

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 6681

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: (CY)

SUBJECT: ABC INTERVIEW WITH PM ECEVIT

THERE FOLLOWS TRANSCRIPT OF
FARMER-WEATHERALL ABC TV INTERVIEW
WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, TAIED AUGUST 19. INTERVIEW WAS TAPED
BEFORE RPT BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF SAME
DATE. PARTS OF INTERVIEW MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN BROADCAST IN US, BUT

BELIEVE ADDRESSEES WOULD LIKE TO
READ IT IN ITS
ENTIRETY. ADDRESSEES PLEASE PROTECT CONTENTS FROM OTHER COMPETING
NEWS AGENCIES.

"Q. MR PRIME MINISTER, WHAT IN YOUR OPINION WILL BE THE
EFFECT OF THIS INCIDENT AT THE AMERICAN ENBASSY IN NICOSIA ON
THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS?

"A. WELL, IT'S A VERY REGRETTABLE EVENT AND I EXPRESSED
MY CONDOLENCES TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND MR. KISSINGER.
WE HAVE BEEN WITNESSES AND OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF
TERRORISM...
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"Q. WHAT EFFECT WILL THE INCIDENT TODAY AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CYPRUS HAVE ON THE SITUATION IN THE ISLAND?

"A. I'S A MOST REGRETTABLE EVENT. THE TURKS ON THE ISLAND HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF GREEK TERRORISM FOR AT LEAST TWO DECADES AND THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT WE THOUGHT THAT WE HAD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE SITUATION ON THE ISLAND URGENTLY. IN FACT, IN RECENT YEARS THE GREEKS HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING, MASSACRING EVEN THEIR OWN KINSMEN AND WE COULD NO MORE LET THE TURKS LIVE UNDER THE GREEK RULE WHO COULDN'T EVEN RULE THEMSELVES MERCIFULLY. BUT, OF COURSE, THIS DOESN'T CHANGE OUR DEEP REGRETS AT THE DEATH OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA. WE THINK THAT TERRORISM IS NOT THE WAY TO ATTAIN ANY HONORABLE OBJECTIVE. WE HOPE THAT THIS INCIDENT WILL CONVINCE THE GREEK PEOPLE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"Q. WILL THIS INCIDENT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON TURKEY'S POLICY, TURKEY'S ACTIONS IN CYPRUS?

"A. NO. ONE OF THE BASES OF OUR ACTION, AS I TOLD YOU, WAS THE ENDLESS TERROR THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN CYPRUS IN ANY CASE.

"Q. DO YOU SEE THIS AS AFFECTING AMERICAN POLICY REGARDING CYPRUS?

"A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT. IT'S UP TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. MY OPINION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING IS THAT THE AMERICANS IN THIS RECENT ERUPTION OF THE CYPRUS CRISIS HAVE BEEN ACTING VERY OBJECTIVELY AND VERY REALISTICALLY. THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN BIASED AT ALL, AS THE GREEKS CLAIMED AND I BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN POLICY WILL AND SHOULD CONTINUE IN THIS TREND.

"Q. BEFORE THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE
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THERE WAS TALK IN WASHINGTON OF A POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF AMERICAN AID TO TURKEY BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S MILITARY ACTIONS ON THE ISLAND. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THAT?

"A. WELL, THERE WAS ANOTHER OCCASION ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO WHEN THE CONGRESS AND POSSIBLY THE SENATE - I DON'T REMEMBER

THE DETAILS - TOOK DECISIONS ABOUT CUTTING OFF AID TO TURKEY, MILITARY AID TO TURKES. I SAID AT THAT TIME THAT THIS WOULD NOT CHANGE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY. WE REGARD NATO AND FRIENDSHIP WITH AMERICAN AS ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR THE SECURITY OF TURKEY, BUT FOR SECURITY AND PEACE THROUGH THE WORLD AND FOR OUR REGION IN PARTICULAR.

"Q. BUT IT CERTAINLY WOULD AFFECT THE TOOLS WITH WHICH YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR POLICY IF...

"A. CERTAINLY IT WOULD SINCE AE ARE MEMBERS OF A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT, IT WOULD NOT ONLY CAUSE HARM TO TURKEY, BUT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS AS WELL. BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HOW AMERICA SHOULD EVALUATE HER OWN INTERESTS. IN ANY CASE, I GATHER THAT MR SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT WAS CONDITIONAL...IT WAS BASED ON THE PRESUMPTION THAT THE TURKS WERE TRYING TO GET MORE LAND THAN THEY SHOULD, THAT THEY WERE NOT ABIDING BY THE CEASEFIRE, THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAD DECLARED. BUT I'M SURE THAT MR SCHLESINGER WILL HAVE FOUND OUT BY THAT TIME THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT BASED ON CORRECT INFORMATION. THE FACT IS THAT THE GREEKS, IN ORDER TO CAMOUFLAGE THEIR TERRORISM HAVE BEEN SPREADING SUCH RUMORS ABOUT TURKEY, ABOUT THE TURKISH FORCES VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE, ABOUT ENLARGING THEIR AREAS. AMONG THE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THEY TRIED TO CAMOUFLAGE WERE THE KILLING OF SIX PEOPLE IN PAPHOS, ONE OF THEM A CHILD OF THREE YEARS OF AGE AND IN WHOSE BODY ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND RED CROSS REPORTS 30 TO 40 BULLET HOLES WERE FOUND. AND ABOUT THE SAME DAY, A TURKISH CYPRIOT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WAS FOUND BURNED TO DEATH TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE AND ALL OF THE CHILDREN.

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"Q. DO YOU TAKE THE THREAT OF THE CUT-OFF OF AMERICAN AID SERIOUSLY?

"A. WELL, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO COMMENT ON IT AT THIS POINT. AS YOU YOURSELF HAVE POINTED OUT, THIS IS A MATTER THAT DOES NOT CONCERN ONLY THE SECURITY OF TURKEY. AFTER ALL, WE ARE MEMBERS IN A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT.

"Q. ONE OF THOSE MEMBERS IS NO LONGER A MEMBER MILITARILY, GREECE, OF COURSE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ADOUT THE FACT THAT GREECE HAS PULLED OUT. IS THERE A CHANCE THAT TURKEY MIGHT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR, MIGHT HAVE TO...

"A. NO. WE THINK THAT - AND I'VE EXPRESSED THIS OPINION

SEVERAL TIMES - NATO STILL HAVE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE PEACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE TIME OF DETENTE. AFTER ALL, DETENTE WAS REACHED NOT IN SPITE OF, BUT BECAUSE OF NATO TO A LARGE EXTENT.

AS TO WITHDRAWAL OF TURKEY FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF NATO, I HAVE SAID PREVIOUSLY THAT IN ANY CASE, THE SOUTHEASTERN FLANK OF TURKEY, WHICH WAS BASED ON THE COOPERATION OF TURKEY AND GREECE WAS HARDLY FUNCTIONING AT ALL AS THE RESULT OF THE STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. ALL I CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT, ALTHOUGH GREECE'S DECISION ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY

STRUCTURE OF NATO IS VERY REGRETTABLE AND I HOPE THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS, TURKEY WILL BE WILLING TO COMPENSATE FOR AS MUCH AS IS WITHIN HER POWER FOR THE WEAKNESS THAT MIGHT ENSUE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN FLANK OF NATO.

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5732

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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"Q. WHAT IS TURKEY PLANNING TO DO NOW IF THE TERRORISM CONTINUES IN CYPRUS?

"A. WELL, WE WISH THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PEACE CORPS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL TRY TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN ORDER TO END TERRORISM AND...PEACE FORCE,

UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCE, I'M SORRY...AND MR. CLERIDES SHOULD TRY TO MAKE HIS AUTHORITY FELT ALL OVER THE VARIOUS GREEK ELEMENTS. IF THESE MEASURES PROVE TO BE OF NO AVAIL, I'M AFRAID WE WOULD BE FORCED TO FIND MEASURES THAT WE OURSELVES CAN APPLY. WE FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE TURKS ON THE ISLAND BOTH AS A GUARANTOR POWER AND BECAUSE THOSE PEOPLE DEPEND ON TURKEY FOR THEIR SECURITY.

"Q. YOU HAVE SAID RECENTLY THAT TURKEY KNOWS WHEN AND WHERE TO STOP. WHEN AND WHERE WILL TURKEY STOP?

"A. WE ALREADY HAVE STOPPED WHERE I SAID WE SHOULD STOP.

"Q. NO MORE MILITARY ACTIVITY.

"A. NO. NO. EXCEPT THAT I HOPE, I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE TERRORISM WILL NOT CONTINUE ESPECIALLY IN THOSE PARTS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISLAND WHERE THERE ARE STILL LARGE COMMUNITIES, TURKISH COMMUNITIES AND IN SPITE OF THE FIRST GENEVA AGREEMENT, IN SPITE OF THE CLEAR PROVISIONS OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT DEMANDING THE GREEKS TO EVACUATE THE TURKISH ENCLAVES AND TO LIBERATE THE TURKISH HOSTAGES THEY HAD, THE CIVILIANS, THE UNARMED CIVILIANS, THESE HAVE NOT BEEN FULFILLED YET AND WE DON'T KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOUSANDS OF TURKS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ISLAND. SO WE HOPE THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL NOT FORCE US TO TAKE, TO SEARCH FOR (UNINTELLIGIBLE) MEASURES, TO INSURE FURTHER SECURITY ON THE ISLAND. SO WE CERTAINLY HAVE REACHED TH LINE WE WERE STRIVING FOR ON THE PEACE TABLE IN ANY CASE.

"Q. BUT YOU WILL NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE FUTURE MILITARY ACTION... IF YOU'RE FORCED TO DO IT?

"A. WELL, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF ACTION WE SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO UNDERTAKE IF TERRORISM GOES ON THREATENING THE LIVES OF THE TURKS ON THE ISLAND. IT CERTAINLY HAS BECOME ONCE MORE OBVIOUS IN THE EYES OF THE WHOLE WORLD BY THE UNFORTUNATE TERRORISM OF TODAY THAT THE GREEKS BECAUSE OF THE IDEOLOGIES THAT HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING THEIR MINDS AND SOULS FOR SO MANY YEARS, THOSE OUTDATED IDEOLOGIES OF ENOSIS AND MEGALO AWAY FROM TERRORISM . THAT IS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS WHY WE FELT WE SHOULD HAVE A ZONE OF OUR OWN, FOR OUR PEOPLE, THE TURKS THERE, FOR THEM TO FEEL SECURE. OTHERWISE, IT WOULD BE THE NIGHTMARE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING THERE FOR TWO DECADES WOULD STILL CONTINUE.

"Q. BRIEFLY AND SPECIFICALLY, WHAT HAS BEEN DR. KISSINGER'S ROLE IN THIS ENTIRE CYPRUS AFFAIR?

"A. WELL, HE HAS GRASPED THE CHANGING, THE RAPIDLY CHANGING

SITUATION QUICKLY AND HAS EVALUATED IT VERY OBJECTIVELY AND HE
HAS TRIED TO BE OF HELP IN AN UNBIASED WAY. BUT THE GREEKS, I'M
AFRAID, ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH AN UNBIASED AMERICAN POLICY.
FURTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T THINK IT'S UP TO ME TO COMMENT ON
THE POLICY OF OUR FRIEND, AMERICA, OR MR. KISSINGER.
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